

# **Gideon Stevens Biography**

S355  
1813-1906  
1folder

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division  
Indiana State Library

Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, February 2014

## **Biographical Note:**

Gideon Stevens was born in Knox County, Tennessee, on December 24, 1813, and came to Brownstown, Jackson County, Indiana, when only one year old. A few years later, his parents moved the family to Johnson County, where Gideon grew to manhood.

Gideon married his first wife, Polly Jamison, on February 15, 1837. Polly died soon after giving birth to a daughter. On September 20, 1838, Gideon married his second wife, Mariah Owens, who had eleven children. They lived on Sugar Creek east of Franklin. The young family moved to Kokomo in Howard County, where Gideon helped to survey and stake off the site for the public square.

In 1856, Mr. Stevens returned to Johnson County, settling near Franklin, where he lived until his death in 1906. Mariah Stevens died on January 9, 1900. Gideon died April 18, 1906.

*Source:*  
Information Found within Collection

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## **Scope and Content:**

Following the biographical information which is given above, the author of this five-page biography, Elba Depue, gives a flowery description of the changes in Indiana during Gideon Stevens' lifetime. She wrote this article for the Evening Star, the newspaper in Franklin, Indiana, on April 23, 1906, following Gideon's death on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Depue compares life in a wilderness with the modern civilization at the time Gideon died. She tells of the Mexican War and Civil War, which he witnessed.

As for Mr. Stevens' character, Ms. Depue states that he had an excellent memory even when he was 92 years old. He confessed faith in his Savior and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church when he was a young man, but later became a member of the Second Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, six miles east of Franklin. She never tells what his occupation was.

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**Collection Inventory**  
**Folder Listing:**

*Gideon Stevens, A Grand Old Man, Lived to See the Wilderness of Indiana Fade Away, by Elba Depue, for the Franklin Evening Star*

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**Collection Information:**

Size of Collection:	1folder
Collection Dates:	1813-1906
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